

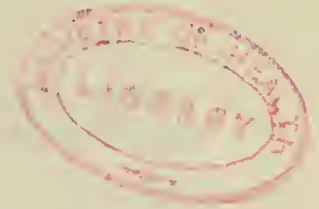
Whitehall

WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH
RECEIVED

5- NOV 1938

A.

BRYNMAWR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH FOR THE BRYNMAWR URBAN
DISTRICT FOR THE YEAR
1937.

COUNCIL OFFICES
BRYNMAWR
OCTOBER 1938.

BRYNMAWR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman (1937)	Councillor J.T. Harding., J.P.
Chairman (1937)	Public Health, Housing & Highways Committee:- Councillor J.T. Harding J.P.

MEMBERS.

North Eastern Ward
@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

Coun. D.M. Jenkins.
Coun. T.J. Minton.
Coun. Tom. Parry.

South Eastern Ward.
@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

Coun. E.A. Griffiths
Coun. Frank. Bush.
Coun. Mrs. C.M. Gardner.

Central Ward.
@@@@@@@@@@@@

Coun. Daniel Harris
Coun. Gurnos Jones.
Coun. Denias Smith.

Western Ward.
@@@@@@@@@@

Coun. B.W. Jones.
Coun. J.E. Jones.
Coun. James Lewis.
Coun. B. Morgan.

Southern Ward.
@@@@@@@@@@

Coun. W.M. Jenkins.
Coun. J.R. Morgan
Coun. J.T. Harding J.P.
Coun. T.H. Davies.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE
LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health
(Part Time)

Dr. S.N. Chopra
(M.R.C.S.)
(L.R.C.P.)

Sanitary Inspector
Surveyor
(Full time Joint Appointment)

John Joseph Quirk.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Brynmawr Urban District Council.

Madam and Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Annual
Report respecting the Health and Sanitary Conditions
of the Urban District of Brynmawr during the
year 1937.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS
OF THE AREA.

Brynmawr was constituted a Local Government
District by order of the Local Government Board
dated May 1851, and consists of the Parish of
Brynmawr in the County of Brecknock.

The area of the District is 1,454 acres.

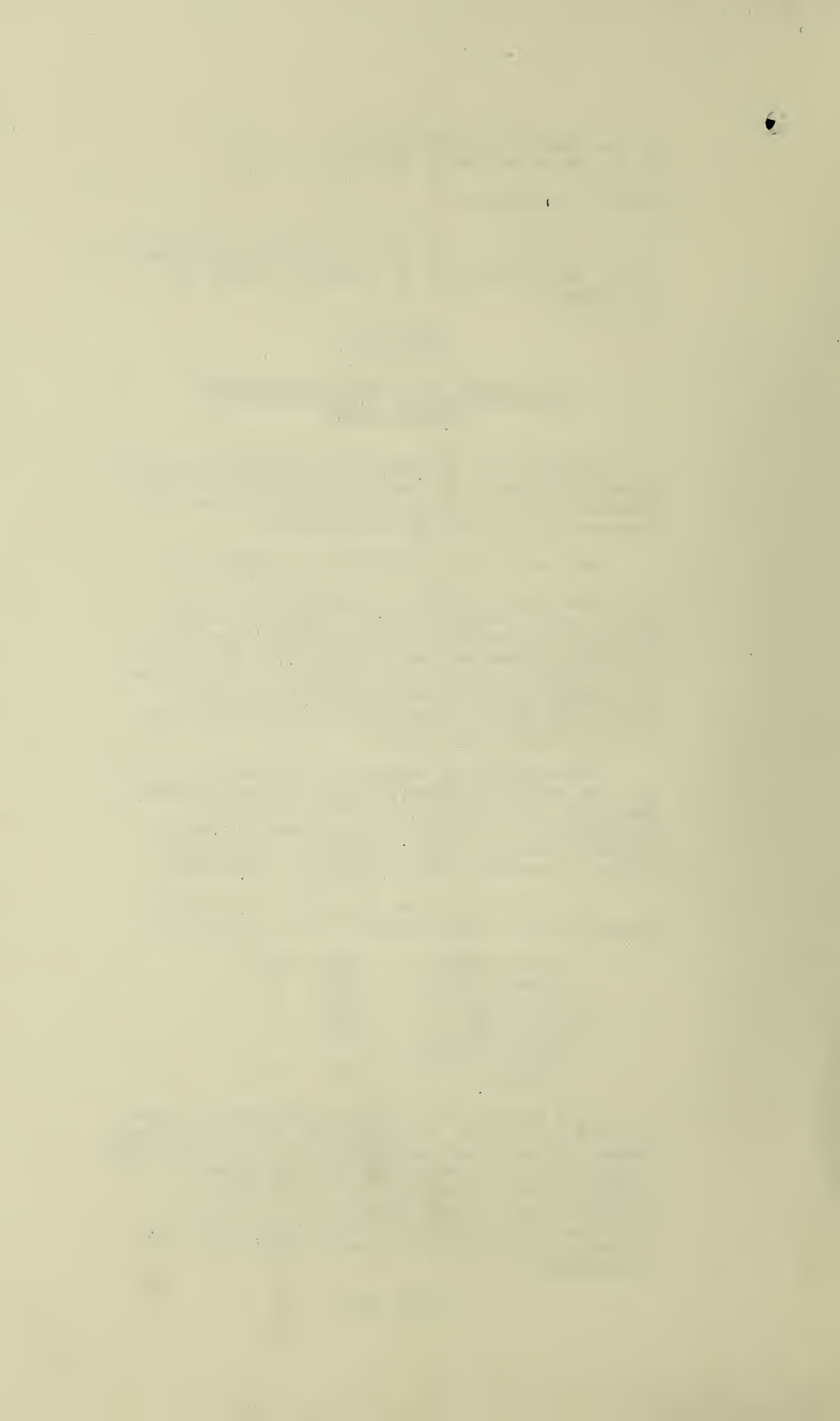
The Urban District is divided into five
Wards namely, North Eastern, Central, South
Eastern, Western and Southern. Three seats on
the Urban District Council are allotted to each
of the first three Wards and four to the latter
two Wards, making a total membership of 17,
whilst the County Authority representation is
one member for each Ward.

Brynmawr Urban District is situated at
the top of the Western Valleys of Monmouthshire
and is on the route of the Main Road from
Abergavenny to Merthyr. The Eastern Valleys,
Western Valleys, and the Tredegar Valleys are
easily accessible from the town of Brynmawr.

The elevation above sea level at various
points in the Urban District are as follows:-

Market Square	1156	feet
Beaufort Gate	1278	"
Bridgend Inn	1099	"
Reservoir	1450	"
Sewage Works	1000	"
Clydach Valley		
Springs.	950	"

Coal Mining is the chief occupation of the
inhabitants of the area. During the year a large
number of men found employment in Beaufort, where
a huge water reservoir has been constructed to
supply water to the Steel Works of Messrs
Richard Thomas & Co., Ebbw-Vale. It is hoped
that when the steel works are working to full
capacity more men from Brynmawr will find
employment.



During the year a boot factory and a cabinet factory have been rebuilt and a small number of men are employed in these two factories. But in spite of this, depression in trade still continues and the majority of the workers in the area, particularly mine workers, are unemployed.

The population of the area is still steadily decreasing due to the exodus of the young people who have left their homes and found employment in more prosperous areas and towns.

The acute unemployment prevailing in the area is the cause of underfeeding, especially among the women.

The decline in population from the 1921 to the 1931 census was 1,253. The Registrar General's return for 1938 shows a further reduction of 197 during the year.

Notwithstanding the acute unemployment prevailing in the area the Health Department has done everything possible to maintain a high standard of health and sanitary conditions.

The Registrar General's estimate of resident population (Mid Year) 1937 was 6692.

The Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1937 according to the Rate Book was:- 1604

The Rateable Value of the District is £ 18,990

The product of a Penny Rate for the Financial Year Ending 31st March 1938 is £66.6. 8.

Rates in the £.	General Rate	17. 4.
	Water Rate	1. 0.
	Total.	18. 4.

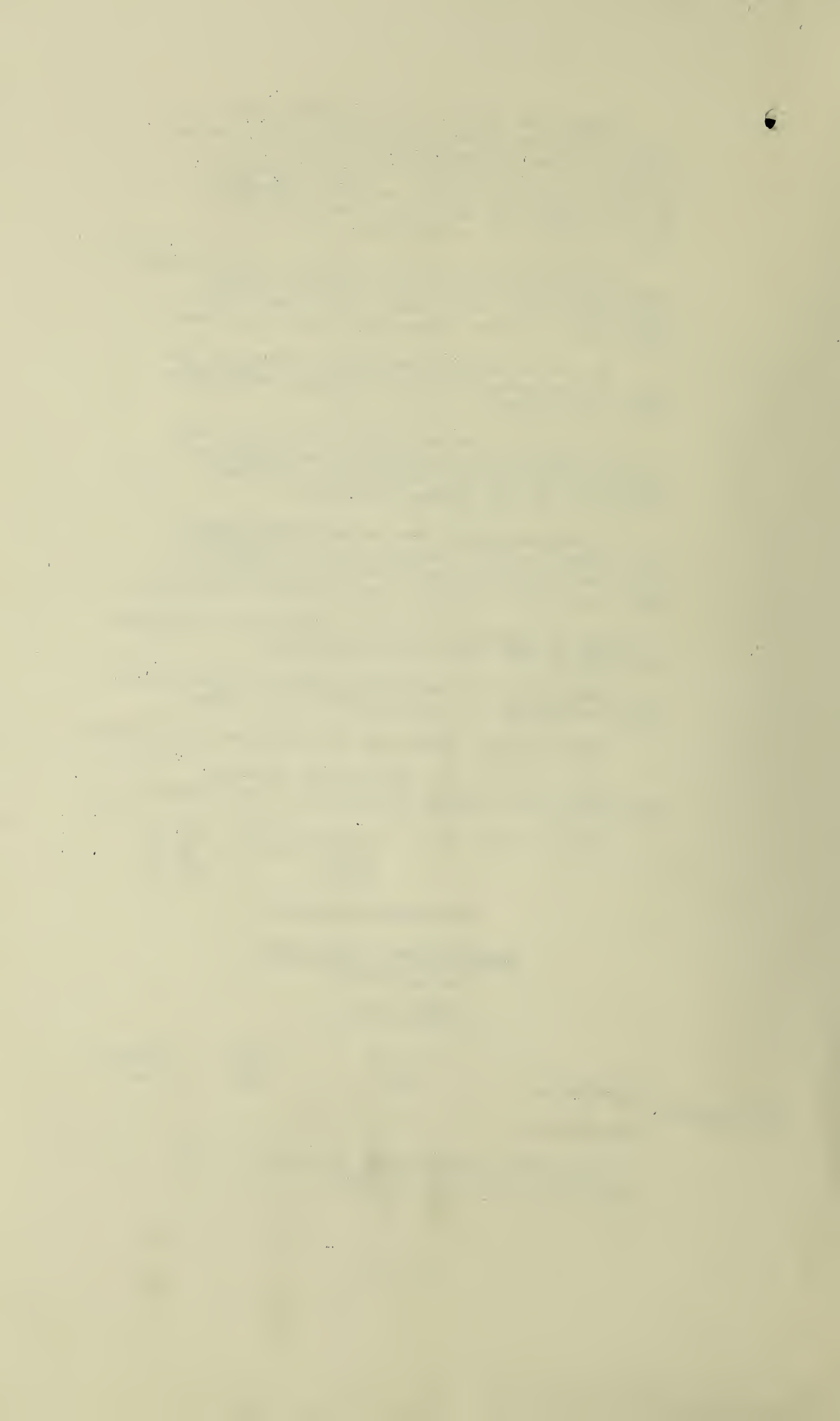
@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL
STATISTICS.

Birth Rate.

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	95	41	54
Live Births. Illegitimate	2	2	-

Showing a BIRTH RATE per 1,000 of the Estimated population of 14.5.



1932	.....	15.74
1933	.....	13.8
1934	.....	14.77
1935	.....	14.04
1936	.....	15.82.

	Total.	Males.	Females.
Still Births.	8	6	2

This gives a rate per 1,000 (LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS) of 15.69.

1931	.....	17.57
1932	.....	16.98
1933	.....	14.35
1934	.....	15.75
1935	.....	15.48
1936	.....	17.11

Death Rate.

The number of deaths during the year 1937 was:-

Males 67 Females 39 Total 106.

Being a DEATH RATE per 1,000 of the estimated resident population of 15.84.

1931	.....	15.7
1932	.....	13.5
1933	.....	10.8
1934	.....	12.95
1935	.....	13.04
1936	.....	11.9

MATERNAL DEATH RATE.

Deaths From:-	Puerperal Fever	Nil
	Puerperal Pyrexia	Nil
	Other puerperal causes	Nil

Rate per 1,000 (Live and still births) Nil.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Deaths of Infants under one year:-

	Total.	Males	Females.
Legitimate	12	6	6
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total.	<u>12</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>
	---	---	---

Death Rate of Infants under one year:-
All infants per 1,000 live births. 123.7.

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 123. 7.

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births. NIL.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28829967>

Deaths from measles (all ages) Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) 1.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (Under 2 years) 1.

The most noticeable causes of death were those from Heart Disease and other circulatory diseases and Cerebral Haemorrhage - those accounting for 40 deaths. Males 23. Females 17.

The number of cancer cases was increased, being 11 as compared with 6 in 1936.

General.

Infectious diseases reported were:-

Scarlet Fever	36	Diphtheria	1
Enteric Fever	nil	Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Pneumonia	32	Erysipelas	2

SECTION B.

There are no changes in the services provided in the area under the following heads:-

- (a) Laboratory Facilities
- (b) Ambulance Facilities
- (c) Nursing in the home
- (d) Clinics and treatment centres
- (e) Hospitals Public & Voluntary.

NURSING HOMES REGISTRATION ACT 1929.

No action has been taken under this Act.

The only provision for Maternity Cases being at the Local Hospital where they have a Ward especially provided for such cases.



SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

(1) WATER

The Town suffered seriously from the wide-spread drought during the summer months. The supply from the Reservoir completely failed. Active steps were taken by the Council and Officials to meet the emergency. An emergency pump was installed to pump water from the Springs at Clydach Valley and this water was distributed by means of motor lorries for drinking purposes.

Lines of water pipes were laid to carry water from the Blackstone Spring and the Cwm Spring to serve the population in the vicinity. In addition arrangements were made with the L.M.S. Railway Co. to pump water from their springs in the Clydach Valley into the Council's Water Mains, but owing to defects in machinery and pipe lines only a small supply was obtained from this source.

Analyses of the water harnessed from these sources for drinking supplies were obtained to satisfy the Council as to the purity of the water.

In addition to the above supplies for drinking purposes, the Council made available other supplies for cleansing purposes only. The Water at the Open Air Swimming Baths was taken for this purpose.

Posters and handbills were issued warning inhabitants to boil all water from unauthorised supplies before drinking same. Happily no epidemic occurred.

The Pumping Plant at the Clydach Valley Springs is now completed and supplies of water in case of drought are thereby assured. The Chemical and Bacteriological analysis of the water from these springs is quite satisfactory.

WATERWORKS CAPACITY.

The capacity of the Reservoir is 23,000,000 gallons.

RAINFALL OF THE YEAR.

The rainfall is that recorded at (1) The Reservoir, (elevation 1450 feet) and (2) at the Sewage Works (Elevation 1,000 feet)

	<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Sewage Works.</u>
January	9.47 inches	9.88 inches
February	6.18 "	7.78 "
March	3.84 "	5.24 "
April	3.51 "	3.77 "
May	1.76 "	2.05 "
June	1.89 "	2.16 "
July	3.54 "	3.62 "
August	2.19 "	2.03 "
September	2.44 "	2.84 "
October	5.22 "	5.06 "
November	2.73 "	2.77 "
December.	3.60 "	4.54 "

(ii) Drainage & Sewerage.

Is quite satisfactory.

2. Rivers & Streams.

No pollution.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation.

The water carriage system is in operation in the town and is generally satisfactory.

(ii) Public Cleansing.

The refuse collected is that from the houses and also the sweeping of the streets. This is collected by means of a covered motor lorry and taken to the tipping ground where waste paper and other combustible material is burned. There are no earth closets or privies in the area of collection.

(iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Slaughter-houses workshops, bakehouses, dairies etc., have been frequently inspected, there are 264 recorded inspections.

Most of the nuisances have been dealt with by verbal representation, 52 Informal Sanitary Notices and 15 Statutory Notices have been issued.

<u>Nature of Inspection.</u>	<u>No. of Inspections.</u>
Drainage	44
Fried Fish Shops	3
Common Lodging houses	3
Tents, vans, sheds,	15
Factories	4
Work shops.	7
Bakehouses	9
Public Conveniences	50
Refuse Disposal	65
Miscellaneous.	53

(iv) Shops.

No action has been taken this year under the Shops Act 1934.

(v) Smoke Abatement.

No action has been taken under the provisions of the Public Health Act 1936.

(vi) Swimming Bath & Pool. The only swimming bath and pool in the Town is under the control of the Brynmawr Development Committee.

(vii) Eradication of Bed Bugs. During the year two houses were fumigated for the eradication of bed bugs.

4. Schools. There are five Elementary and one Secondary School in the Town all of which are under the control of the County Council. The sanitary conditions and water supply of the schools is good and efficient.

SECTION D.

Housing.

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.

1.(a)	Total No. of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (Under Public Health or Housing Acts.)	70.
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose.	105.
2.(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925.	12.
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	17.
3.	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so injurious or dangerous to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	4.
4.	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive to those referred to under the preceding sub head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	47.

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority of their Officers.	nil
--	-----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9,10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in which notices were served requiring repairs.	2.
(2)	Number of houses in which defects were remedied after the service of formal notices.	nil
	(a) By owners	nil.
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners.	

- (●) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.
- (1) Number of dwelling houses in which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 7.
 - (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-
 - (a) By owners 7.
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners. nil.
 - (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936.
 - (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. nil.
 - (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. nil.
 - (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936.
 - (1) Number of separate tenements or under ground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made. 1.
 - (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit. nil.
4. (a) Housing Act 1936. Part IV-- OVERCROWDING.
- (a) 1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year. 79.
 - 2. Number of families dwelling therein. 85.
 - 3. Number of persons dwelling therein.
 - (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 13.
 - (c) 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year. 7.
 - 2. Number of persons concerned in such cases 47.
 - (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of Overcrowding. nil.
 - (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer may consider it desirable to report. nil.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply.

33 visits of inspection have been made to dairies, milkshops, and cowsheds and they have been found satisfactory.

(b) Meat and other foods.

Slaughter-houses, bakehouses have been inspected from time to time as practicable. Meats and other foods have been found to be of good quality. 105 visits have been made, one slaughter-house was found unsatisfactory and slaughtering therein discontinued.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle ex- cluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	181	1300	404	5836	4314
Number inspected	40	500	56	981	200
All diseases except T.B. whole carcasses condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	7	25	-	4
Percentage of the number inspected, infected with disease other than Tuberculosis	-	1.4%	-	2.6%	2%
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	2	-	-	2
Percentage of the number inspected, affected with T.B.	-	.2%	-	-	1%

(c) Adulteration.

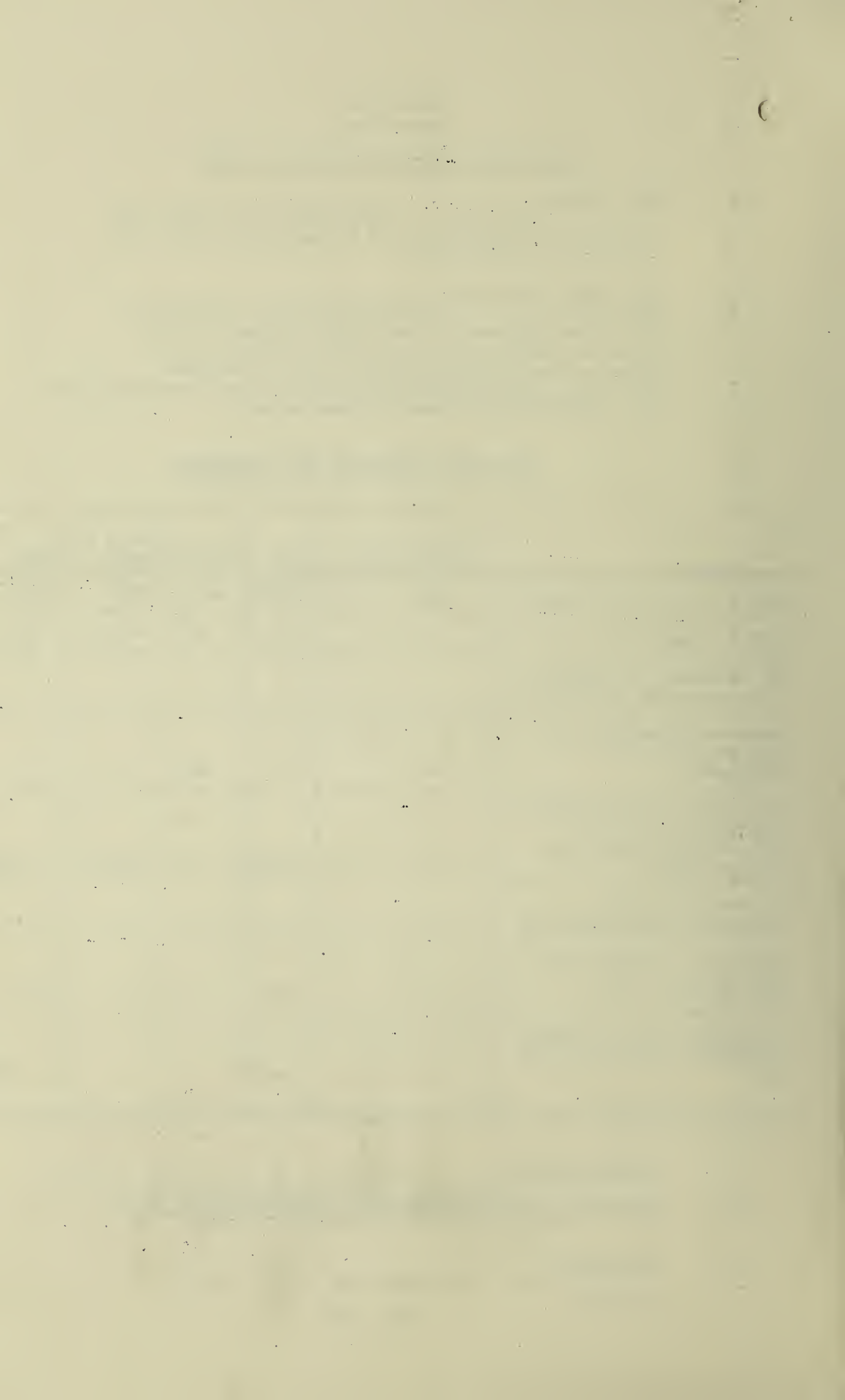
This is attended to by the County Council.

(d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

Arranged for by the County Council.

(e) Nutrition.

This is arranged for by the County Council.



SECTION F.

PREVELANCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The incidence of infectious diseases for the year is increased especially pneumonia and scarlet fever. All cases except one case of dyptheria which was taken to Tredegar Hospital were treated at home.

All cases of infectious diseases are notified by Medical Practitioners to the Schools.

Notifiable diseases other than Tuberculosis during
the year 1937.

Diseases	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths
Small Pox.	Nil.	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	36	Nil	Nil
Dyptheria	1	1	Nil
Enteric Fever	Nil	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Fever	Nil	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia	32	Nil	6
Erysipelas.	2	Nil	Nil

Analysis of Notifiable Diseases in Age Groups.

Diseases	Under 1 year	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 & over
Scarlet Fever				1	5	18	11	1				
Dyptheria			1									
Enteric Fever												
Puereperal Pyrexia										1		
Pneumonia	4		5		1	5	2	2		2	3	8

Cancer.

There is an increase in the number of cases.

	Total	Males	Females	Deaths.
1935	7	4	3	7
1936	6	5	1	6
1937	11	6	5	11

The case affected the Rectum (1. Female.)
Uterus (1. Female) Lung (1. Male) Liver (1. Male)
Stomach (4 Males. 3 Females).

Prevention of Blindness.

No action taken under Section 66 of the
Public Health Act 1925.

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods.	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non. Res.		Respiratory		Non. Res.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
5								
15	2		1		3			
25	2	2			2	1		
35								
45	1	2	1		1		1	
55								
65 & upwards								
Total.	5	4	2		6	1	1	

I remain,

Your obedient servant,
S.N. Chopra
Medical Officer of Health.

